

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 EPG-02

SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815

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UNCLAS GENEVA 5407

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJ: UNCTAD PREFERENCES MEETING

REF: GENEVA 5313

1. SUMMARY: MEETING OF UNCTAD SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES HELD JUNE 27 TO JULY 1, 1977. MEETING WAS BASICALLY LOW-KEY WITH ONLY ONE MODERATE RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY G-77 (SEE PARA SEVEN BELOW). G-77 SET FORTH THEIR VIEWS IN DECLARATION TO BE ANNEXED TO REPORT, BUT DID NOT PRESS GROUP B TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION CONTAINING THEM. MAIN DEBATE FOCUSED ON ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE OF THE INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES OF THE PREFERENCE DONOR COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOW.

2. AGENDA ITEMS 3, 4, 5 AND 6: THESE ITEMS CONSIDERED TOGETHER AND DEBATE WAS PROLONGED BUT ROUTINE. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, BRAZILIAN DELEGATION GAVE CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. SCHEME WHICH WAS EXPANSION OF BRAZILIAN STATEMENT IN CECON IN BUENOS AIRES IN MAY. VARIOUS SPEAKERS CRITICIZED U.S. EXCLUSION OF OPEC COUNTRIES FROM OUR SCHEME. COMPETITIVE NEED FEATURE, PARTICULARLY AS IT AFFECTS NEGLIGIBLE IMPORTS IN SOME CASES, ALSO ROUNDLY CRITICIZED. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THERE REMAINED AREAS OF THE U.S. GSP WHICH COULD BE IMPROVED, THE U.S.

DEL EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES UNDER THE SCHEME. REPORTED ON PRESENT REVIEW WHICH MAY REPEAT MAY LEAD TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR SOME MODIFICATIONS.

3. AGENDA ITEM 7: RAPPORTEUR OF UNCTAD WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF ORIGIN REPORTED ON MARCH MEETING OF THE GROUP. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD CONTINUE ITS WORK TOWARDS HARMONIZATION. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1978, ALTHOUGH SINCE THIS MEETING NOT CONTAINED IN UNCTAD PLANS, THERE MIGHT BE BUDGETARY PROBLEM IN HOLDING MEETING.

4. AGENDA ITEM 8: DIRECTOR OF THE UNCTAD MANUFACTURES DIVISION KRISHNAMURTI INVITED MEMBER NATIONS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARIAT ON THE SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENT REGARDING GSP AND THE MTN, IN PARTICULAR THE PROPOSED TARIFF CUTTING FORMULAS AND EROSION OF TARIFF MARGINS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS DOCUMENT WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GATT FOR WHATEVER USE THEY SEE FIT.

5. AGENDA ITEM 9: UNCTAD/UNDP GSP PROJECT DIRECTOR CUBILLOS SUMMED UP PAST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND INDICATED THAT SEVERAL MEMBER NATIONS WOULD BE COOPERATING IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONDUCT OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES. IN THIS REGARD, BRAZILIAN DEL INDICATED GOB'S INTENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER BDCS. DELS OF USSR AND GDR RAISED ISSUE OF APPROPRIATENESS OF SEMINAR HELD IN WEST BERLIN. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.

6. AGENDA ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 1979 AT TIME TO BE DETERMINED BY THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. PROVISIONAL AGENDA WAS ADOPTED.

7. AGREED RESOLUTION TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES, BEARING IN MIND THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THE PAST PERIODIC REVIEWS OF THE OPERATIONS AND EFFECTS OF GSP AND WITH REFERENCE TO SECTION VIII OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS, (1.) AGREES TO THE DESIRABILITY OF REVIEWING PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES OF PREFERENCE-GIVING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, OF

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES, WITH A VIEW TO THE CONTINUED
IMPROVEMENT OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE GENERALIZED
SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(2.) REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO MAKE,
AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS, PROPOSALS IN THIS
RESPECT AND TO REPORT TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AFTER COMPLETION OF HIS REPORT.
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